

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'
MILLENNIAL STAR.

ESTABLISHED IN 1840



A Shepherd's Christmas Prayer

"Peace On Earth, Goodwill Towards Men"

(See page 807)

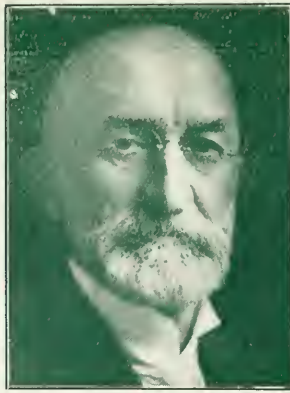
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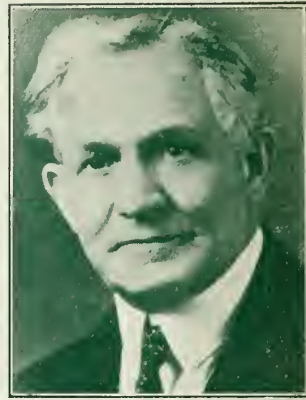
Price One Penny



President Clark



President Grant



President McKay

GREETINGS FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

AT the passing of this another fleeting year, a worthy custom affords us another opportunity to express thanksgiving one to another for gifts and blessings received, and to herald anew the message of "peace on earth, goodwill toward men." We greet you this season, however, with feelings mingled with appreciation and apprehension.

Reverently and gratefully we acknowledge the Lord's bounteous blessings, inspirational guidance and divine protection. Now as always when we turn to Him, our hearts are filled with a sense of perfect security.

Also, as we consider the record of the Church during the last nine months, we have cause for encouragement and gratitude. Increases in many phases of the work reflect the loyalty and integrity of Church members, as well as their strength and ability to face undauntingly shrinking incomes and economic disasters. Five new stakes, 46 new wards, since January 1st; improvement in Priesthood quorums, in attendance at quorum and class meetings, and more responsiveness in duties of brotherhood, indicate a persistence of interest most commendable. Four hundred and seventeen more missionaries in the field on September 30, 1935, than on September 30, 1934, in the face of present financial difficulties, and the further fact that tithes and offerings show an upward climb, are favourable indications of the unwavering faith of members of the Church. Truly, from a Church standpoint there is just cause for thanksgiving.

Feelings of apprehension arise, however, as we perceive the unrest, confusion and distraction of the nations of the world. In the words of an eminent statesman: "Men may cry peace, peace, but there is no peace." Nor will there be until the spirit of righteousness dominates mankind.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone since the Christ child came to earth. His divine mission, as prophetically told, was "to give light to them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the ways of peace." Full well He knew that those who would persistently "sit in darkness" would be blind to the light He offers them; and, not content with turning therefrom themselves, would even persecute those who would desire to follow in the paths of peace. As He looked through the vista of centuries, He perceived millions who would deliberately reject the principles that promote harmony, fellowship, and goodwill, and cherish instead those things which foster strife, sorrow and death.

Yet he also knew that some time in the far distant future men's

eyes would inevitably be opened, and that they would eventually see that only in Christ and His teachings will the nations as well as men have peace.

Perhaps never was there a time in the history of the human race when the message of peace could be more appropriately heralded than at the present time. Today, contrary to the principles of Christianity, war is threatening the tranquility of nations. Clouds of strife and tribulation are gathering threateningly over civilization. To further such contention and strife, the Adversary of peace sends abroad his emissaries, Ambition, Greed, Envy, Intemperance, Hatred, Atheism, scattering seeds of misunderstanding, bitterness, and deadly conflict.

However, dark though the lowering clouds seem, we know that the sun of peace still shines, and that sentiment opposed to brute force and unrighteous conflict is gaining power and increased momentum with each passing year.

Millions of honest hearts bleed as they hear and see the achievements of science turned to the destruction of cities and the brutal extinction of human beings. These millions, and millions more, should hold aloft the light of the Christ life, and thereby hasten the day when men "shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks; (when) nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

The great need of the world today is peace—the "first of human blessings."

To consummate this achievement, and to refrain from the shedding of blood the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are enjoined by divine revelation. In the midst of persecution and affliction, the Church was called upon by the Lord to "sue for peace," not only the people that have smitten you, but also to all peoples:

"And lift up an ensign of peace, and make a proclamation of peace unto the ends of the earth;

"And make proposals for peace unto those who have smitten you, according to the voice of the Spirit which is in you, and all things shall work together for your good."

The harmony of the notes sounded by the heavenly host singing "peace on earth, goodwill to men" has lingered throughout the intervening centuries, and still reverberate with increasing influence in the hearts of millions. True, selfishness, greed, intolerance, ambition, and other enemies to peace continue to prey upon humanity. But their depredations will be less potent as the spirit of the Christ life becomes more widely diffused, and the principles of the Gospel of life abundant become more acceptable and adaptable as the guide to nations.

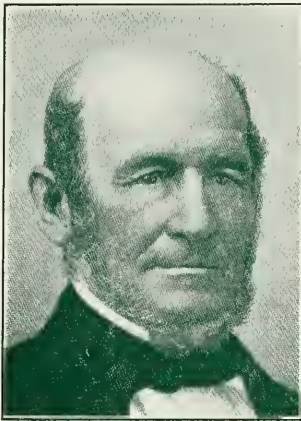
To this end we appeal to Latter-day Saints and to sincere men and women the world over to live for peace, for the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God. To achieve this, each one will cherish in his or her soul the ideal of truth. Honour, integrity, fair dealing, will be manifest in daily activities and duties; kindness and generosity will replace cruelty and selfishness; reverence for God and all things sacred will supplant disbelief and cynicism that shrivel the spirit and make sordid the soul; each will cherish as his life's ideal the divine sonship of Jesus Christ; will acknowledge His creative power, His perfect character and supreme leadership, and accept what a distracted world must some day inevitably accept as a fact, that only through Him and by obedience to the principles of His Gospel can there be established peace on earth and goodwill toward men.

The First Presidency

HEBER J. GRANT
J. REUBEN CLARK JR.
DAVID O. MCKAY

THE FIRST MORMON CHRISTMAS IN ENGLAND

IT was Christmas Day in Victorian Preston of Lancashire. . . . Victorian because Her Majesty had only a few months before ascended the throne left vacant through the death of her uncle, William IV. The little cotton weaving center presented a quaint holiday picture, with its numerous chapel spires, forest of chimneys and rows of porchless, contiguous brick houses. The xylophone-like clank of the clogs on the cobbled streets seemed to blend with the melodic Yuletide peals of the church bells.



HEBER C. KIMBALL

The scene in Preston on that wintry day of 1837 was the "Cock-pit," so named because Lord Derby, the twelfth earl, had erected it 36 years before as an arena for a barbarous sport which today has become almost extinct. Since then, however, it had become the home of the Preston Temperance society. Already it was steeped in tradition. Within its walls the well-known word "teetotal" was coined in September, 1833. The expression was created by Richard "Dicky" Turner, a reformed drinker and member of the Society. In discussing the relative merits of moderation and total abstinence at the convention there, he drawled in his Lancashire brogue, "I'll have nowt to do wi' this moderation botheration pledge; I'll be reet down out-and-out

tee-tee-total for ever and ever!"

Into this same hall, situated as it was near the market place in the heart of the town, on that Christmas Day gathered three hundred Latter-day Saints. They came from a radius of thirty miles. They were assembling for the first conference of the British mission of the restored Church of Him whose birth the world on that day was commemorating. They came from branches in Preston, Walkerfold, Alston, Bedford, Eccleston, Wrightington, Hexton, Euxton Bath, Daubers Lane, Chorley, Whittle, Leyland Moss, Ribchester, Thornley, Clithero, Waddington, Downham, Barshe Lees, Askin, Hunter's Hill, Stoney Gate Lane, Chatburn, Penwortham and other places. Although it had been only five months since the first Latter-day Saint sermon in Britain had been preached in Vanxhall in this same town, hundreds of Britons had joined the Church. The first baptisms had been performed the previous summer in the grass-banked River Ribble which wended its way only a short distance from the "Cockpit."

It was a time of rejoicing in the gas-lighted pit, where the seats were arranged in circles, each rising about a foot above the one in front. The cock-fighting area in the center, about

(Continued on page 811)

TO OUR FRIENDS IN GREAT BRITAIN

AS the festive season approaches, our minds revert to the happy times we spent with the saints of the British mission during the time we were in their midst, filling the missions to which we had been called by the First Presidency of the Church, myself as Patriarch, to give blessings to the worthy saints of my native land, and my dear wife to labour among the sisters of the Relief Society.

President Rudge Clawson of the Council of Twelve Apostles, in his blessing setting her apart for her mission, among other things, said: "I bless you that you may be a comfort and a help to your husband, and a help to those who may call upon you to assist in spreading the truth. I bless you that the angel of the Lord shall go before you and your husband, that you will find much satisfaction and joy in your labours and visits, and that you may return to your home again with your husband, in peace and safety, in good health, rejoicing all the day long in the salvation of our God."



PATRIARCH WALLIS

That she was a help to all those who visited her and to whom she ministered, is known to the saints in the British mission. That she was a comfort to me in the seven weeks I was sick and practically helpless in London with sciatic rheumatism, the good saints there will testify. How deeply grateful we both are to all those who ministered to our comforts during that distressing period of our mission. Especially shall we never forget the goodness of President Alfred Willmott of the Holloway branch, who never failed one night during all that illness to visit us. Verily it can be said of him: "I was sick and ye visited me," and he shall in no wise lose his reward.

We have received from two to three hundred letters from our dear friends in the British mission and it grieves us to know that we are not able to write to each one personally, and to express to each our love and appreciation for the affectionate messages. All we can do is to send them our greetings through this medium at this time of the year when our hearts are full of blessings for all our associates in the cause of the Master.

Today we received from the First Presidency our release from our labours in the Canadian and other missions in the States, to which we were called shortly after arriving home from our missions to Great Britain. Here we left other faithful members of the Church, who would like to keep up their associations with us

(Continued on page 812)



PRESIDENT CANNON



SISTER CANNON

A YULETIDE MESSAGE

LOWLINESS and glory were present in the birth of the Child Jesus. Mary, the Virgin, had felt the very presence of the Father, had conceived the Son and had been overshadowed by the protective power of the Holy Ghost. Mary, the Mother, had made the dreary journey to Bethlehem, had sat waiting while Joseph sought vainly for lodgings, and in her agony lay on a pallet of straw near the feet of the cattle. The innkeeper and his indifferent guests sent her heartlessly to the stable, but angels sang, a new star moved across the sky and magi gave precious gifts.

Now when His birth is being celebrated by the Christian world, we hope the members of the Church in these British Isles will feel the glory as well as the lowliness of their calling. Some of you when you accepted the restored Gospel suffered persecution, all have met ridicule, many lost friendships, a few were cast out of home. There is danger that you may feel inferior to the rest of the world, being so few, so scattered and generally so poor.

Lowliness of spirit is always necessary. Humility is a cardinal virtue. The Holy Spirit is offended when saints lose the feeling of equality with their brethren. The favours we all have from the Lord are so great in comparison with the differences between us that we can well be humble.

Nevertheless, in our Christmas reflections, let us not forget the glory that awaits the faithful, the dignity of our calling, the great fact that from the open heaven we have received the direct revelation of the Father and the Son, and later through the ministration of resurrected beings the holy Priesthood. That royal authority is among us, and us of the Church exclusively. It is more potent in eternal matters than the word of captains of business or political dictators or sovereigns. There is no place for depreciation among us—humility but not abasement.

Lift up your heads, saints of the Most High. Be glad of your calling. Declare the good news to your neighbours. At this time when we celebrate the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem, remember that His next appearance will be as King of kings. If faithful and alive we will rise to meet Him, and if we have passed on we will descend with Him in the clouds.

We sincerely wish you happiness and joy in this Christmastide.

JOSEPH J. CANNON
RAMONA W. CANNON

CHRISTMAS IN THE MODERN WORLD

By A Medical Psychologist

TIMES may have changed but the spirit of Christmas persists as it has persisted for centuries. In 1935 we will wish our friends and neighbours a "Merry Christmas" with the same sincerity and goodwill as did our fathers and forefathers. We shall look forward to Christmas cards and tokens from our friends. We shall know the pleasures of giving and receiving. For one day at least we shall be at peace with the world and with ourselves. We shall relax from the tension of our everyday lives and we shall look kindly upon our fellow creatures. The Christmas spirit is one of the most remarkable phenomena of our modern age, a ruthless, fiercely competitive age, an age of fears and anxieties. Today, amidst political and economic strife we can ill afford to lose a fraction of the spirit of Christmas, which after all is but the spirit of the essential brotherhood of man.

The Cover

THE touching picture on the cover of this, the Christmas issue of the *Star*, has an interesting story behind it. It was taken by a once famous newspaper photographer now retired and living in rural Norfolk. First published by the *Sunday Express* as an Armistice Day picture in 1933, it was easily the outstanding photograph of the year. To date that newspaper has sold more than 14,000 prints of it throughout the world.

Special permission to publish this famous study was granted the *Millennial Star* by the Associated Press, which holds the exclusive copyright.

Christmas in this country is especially the festival of the family and the home and as such it is appreciated and enjoyed. Family friendships are closer knit. Parents and children come together and the ties of mutual affection and trust are strengthened. For this one day, parents and grown-ups can retreat from the reality of their working life and can be children with their children. Entering into a happy state of make-belief, fathers, mothers, elder brothers and sisters can enter the magic world of the young child's play, the child for whom Santa Claus is a real, living personality. It will do many parents lots of good to become Peter Pans for a day. They

will find themselves in much closer accord with their children and will gain an insight into their thoughts and moods which will help them to a keener appreciation of the child's point of view. Christmas Day can break down once and for all the reserve and misunderstanding which not infrequently spoils the relationship between parents and children. Let us not forget, therefore: "At Christmas play and make good cheer."

From a psychological standpoint Christmas is a tradition of great social value. It represents a pleasing break in the continuity of our lives. We leave aside the cares of the world. Our minds become surcharged with happy emotions and happy emotions are good for the health of body and mind alike. In a

(Continued on page 812)

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1935

EDITORIAL

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

CHRISTMAS holidays are at hand. The *Millennial Star* most cordially extends to all its readers the compliments of the season. And with us this is no vain expression. If it were possible, we would gladly grasp each of you by the hand and make you feel the depth and sincerity of our good wishes for you. It is our earnest prayer that the Lord will graciously bless you with all your individual needs. May you have great cause to rejoice in His abundant goodness to you!

TWO GREAT DECEMBER DATES

DECEMBER 23 and 25—these two dates are linked in the minds of all Latter-day Saints. The latter is celebrated as the date of the Saviour's birth; the former is the birthday anniversary of His great latter-day prophet, Joseph Smith. The two dates are so close together that in our Church they are often celebrated together.

Such a celebration, when its religious significance is uppermost in mind, is always one of rejoicing on account of the inestimable blessings that came to the human family by the earthly life and death of the Saviour and the restoring work of Joseph Smith. During His mortal life, among the many things He did, Jesus revealed to men a perfect plan of living that, if followed, would win the abundant life on earth and an endless, progressive and happy life in God's Celestial Kingdom. As a means to this end, by His death and resurrection, Jesus broke the bonds of death and opened up a way for man to be forgiven of and saved from his sins.

But He knew, as prophecy had indicated, that the plan of life He set up would, in major part at least, be thrown down or vitally changed to suit the opinions of men having misguided or darkened minds. However, once and for all, He opened the gates of redemption for all the descendants of Adam. Time saw His name borne on the crest of an ever expanding wave of belief until it enveloped the entire globe and lodged on the lips of men in every land who professed His name as that of their Saviour. Before this name idolatry slunk away; and in a few centuries

so-called Christianity was the dominant (and dominating) religion of all the leading civilized nations.

We say "so-called Christianity." All the world know that the religion of Jesus as He and His Apostles taught and practised it, did not continue undefiled on down through the centuries. Many men came to profess the name of the Redeemer but failed, more or less utterly, to live it. Besides, His professed advocates misinterpreted some of His precious doctrines and changed sacred ordinances from the pattern He left to them. And even though there were undoubtedly many sincere believers, especially during the Reformation and later, yet it is the plain truth that the authority to speak and act for God and to administer in the ordinances of the Gospel was no longer in the church. Thus churches became man-made institutions. Even so, we readily grant they had done, and are doing, a great deal of good. Vast numbers of human beings had been won from paganism and became converts to a belief in the redeeming power of the resurrected Jesus. This was a tremendous gain. It made possible the next great manifestation of God's love for us, His children.

This manifestation came through the restoration of the Holy Priesthood, of the re-establishment of the Church of Jesus Christ and the re-revelation of the Gospel in its purity and fulness. As His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, had been called of the Father to come in the meridian of time and reveal the Gospel plan and then die for man, so the great Prophet of the last days, Joseph Smith, was divinely called to lead in the work that witnessed the manifestation of the love just mentioned, and then seal his testimony with his blood. The ignominious death of the Saviour and the cruel martyrdom of His great latter-day Prophet were both fore-ordained events and both demonstrated, as perhaps nothing else could have done, the Father's infinite love for us.

We therefore have the greatest reasons known to history for celebrating the memorable December dates named above. Without the sacrificial and redeeming work of the Son man could have no hope of the future—his mortal death would be endless; but for the restorative work accomplished through the Prophet the gates of the Celestial Kingdom would still be closed. The contemplation of these truths must lift our hearts in gratitude to God and logically lead to actions worthily expressive of this gratitude.

This means that love and its fruits should characterize this season of the year. Hence the Christmas period is pre-eminently the time for showing forth goodwill to fellow men in ways that leave no doubt of their meaning. We acceptably fully prove our gratitude to God not by singing and praying and shouting hallelujahs to Him but, in addition, by making His children the recipients of acts of our love. Hence Christmas has come to be the greatest gift-time of the year. It is therefore the time when goodwill is most prevalent, when joy is most abundant, when prayers of gratitude should be most fervent; for this is the time of the year when the redeeming work of our Lord is most in the thoughts of men. Latter-day Saints will also link with this period the name of the great prophet of the 19th century, Joseph Smith.—JOSEPH F. MERRILL.

A DEEPER HUNGER

By Ramona W. Cannon

THE following incident occurred in the childhood of Brother N. L. Nelson, who was to become a professor of English in the Brigham Young university, and the author of *Scientific Aspects of Mormonism* and other works widely read among the Latter-day Saints. In recording this little story I am obliged to depend on memory alone, as the narrator is not here to verify details. However, the true Christmas spirit shone forth so brightly in his own account of the event that I am passing on the little tale for you to enjoy its savour.

As I recall it, a few years ago Brother Nelson was in Salt Lake City and was unable to return to his home for Christmas. For this reason we had the pleasure of his company at our own Christmas dinner. Falling into a reminiscent mood, he confided to us this early experience.

The Nelson family had emigrated from Denmark and settled in the little town of Goshen, a dry, sandy, unyielding part of "Zion" at the foot of the Utah lake. Only with great difficulty could they eke out the humblest sort of living. This condition was particularly true when the father left his family to go on a mission.

The children and their mother suffered, sometimes acutely, from physical hunger—especially the hunger for fruit, which would not grow in Goshen. The Golden Apples of mythology, eagerly as they were sought, were less desirable to Kings and Princesses than were the luscious rosy apples of nature to the fruit-starved children of this little southern Utah settlement.

CHRISTMAS was approaching, but the Nelson family were not excited about what Santa Claus would bring them. Of one thing they felt sure—he would bring them no surprises.

Then one day the Nelson children saw something—something mysterious—something they felt they should not have seen. Mother was going into the house with a small packet, and an air of great secrecy.

Next day when mother was out working, temptation assailed the children. They stole up to the attic and came close to the old trunk, where the family treasures were kept, and where things were hidden when hiding was necessary.

They did not open the trunk—that would not have been right—but they did wish to haunt the scene of mystery. Yet already the mystery was disclosed. Uhm! What a delicious aroma! "Apples!" they cried, and again in an awed voice, "Apples."

Next day and each day thereafter until Christmas, the children returned to the attic to smell the fragrance of those apples and to anticipate the pleasure of setting teeth in their juicy firmness.

On Christmas morning each child received his round, rosy apple, and felt that indeed Santa Claus had been good. The other children ate theirs slowly, but Nels looked at his, felt it, inhaled its fragrance, and held on to it.

In the afternoon, when the children went out to play, Nels carried his apple. A little neighbour girl came out. She had been very ill and looked pale and thin and starved. Many times Nels had felt sorry for her, and had wished he might do something for her.

"Look!" he cried, as she came nearer. "Look! This is my Christmas present!"

She looked and gasped and as Nels watched her, the fragile little body seemed to fade away, and he saw only a pair of eyes—great burning eyes fixed on his rosy apple. They did not ask—those eyes—nor did her voice make petition. But Nels knew that here was the opportunity to do something for his friend who had been ill. The deeper hunger to be kind—to give joy to another—waged war with the sharp pangs of physical need for the luscious fruit. With a great inner wrench, he forced a smile, thrust the apple into her hand, and said, "You keep it for your Christmas." Then he wheeled about very suddenly and was off. But first he had seen something which he never forgot—an expression of ineffable joy on the face of the little girl who had been ill.

THE FIRST MORMON CHRISTMAS IN ENGLAND

(Concluded from page 804)

12 or 15 feet square, had been used by singers at the Latter-day Saint meetings, and the compartment where judges of the feathered sport once sat provided the pulpit.

Presiding at that Christmas Day gathering was Elder Heber C. Kimball, who has been called the "Father of the British Mission." At that meeting Joseph Fielding, one of Elder Kimball's companions on the first missionary voyage to Britain, was ordained an elder. One hundred little children were blessed at the meeting—what a fitting occasion on the day celebrating the birth of the "Babe in a Manger!" Furthermore, at that meeting the Word of Wisdom, which had been revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith four years before, was first publicly proclaimed in Britain. For those saints, it was a joyous Christmas indeed.

Of that first Mormon Christmas Day in Britain Heber C. Kimball wrote: "The Spirit of the Lord was with us; and truly the hearts of the elders were rejoiced beyond measure when we contemplated the glorious work which had been done, and we had to exclaim, 'Blessed be the name of the Lord, who has crowned our labours with such success.'"

At Christmastide in 1935 the "Cockpit" is not with us—its walls tumbled down one day in June of 1884 and a cinema now stands over its remains. Heber C. Kimball has passed on and even all those children who were blessed at that first conference have gone on to another sphere. But the power that brought them together, that brightened their lives and opened the way for eternal life and exaltation is our priceless possession today. It is the Gospel of Him who was born in the humble manger in Bethlehem, of Him who died on Calvary and of Him who in this dispensation restored His Church never again to be taken away from the earth.—WENDELL J. ASHTON.

TO OUR FRIENDS IN GREAT BRITAIN

(Concluded from page 805)

by correspondence, but which is impossible, although we would dearly love to receive an occasional letter from any of our friends, telling us of their continued faithfulness to the work of the Lord, which, after all, is the great thing that interests us.

In their letter notifying us of our release, the First Presidency say, "We appreciate the faithful and efficient service that you have both rendered, and feel assured that the people among whom you have served have been greatly blessed and benefitted by their contact with you, and your ministry with them."

We deeply appreciate the love and confidence of our presiding brethren, than which there is nothing we prize so much. We have ever held ourselves in readiness to respond to the call of our leaders, and have felt it a privilege to be honoured by them, to represent the work of the Lord wherever we have been called to labour.

Tell all the saints for us that we feel to exhort them to be faithful in all things: to keep the commandments of God and be humble, that they may have the Spirit of the Lord to guide them, ever being ready to hear and obey counsel from those men who have been called and chosen of God to preside over them and counsel them in all things. That the peace and blessing of Almighty God may rest upon them, that they may endure to the end, and be saved with a full and complete salvation, is our prayer.

JAMES H. WALLIS

ELIZABETH T. WALLIS.

CHRISTMAS IN THE MODERN WORLD

(Concluded from page 807)

curious way the mass effect of Christmas emotion is experienced by the individual. For days ahead we have been enjoying the pleasures of anticipation by planning the Christmas festivities. We have skilfully arranged how Santa Claus is to bring the much desired toys for the children. We have carefully selected the presents for our friends. (Christmas shopping may worry fathers but it is a joy for the mothers and youngsters.) There is the Christmas dinner to think about, the parties and the entertainments. All this extra activity is carried out in a spirit of cheerfulness and goodwill. In this age of sophisticated pleasures the simple homely joys of the Christmas season survive and will survive untarnished and undimmed. Christmas is indeed a psychological tonic to the weary in mind and spirit. A kindly feeling is abroad and "kindnesses, like grain, increase by sowing."

Historically, it is interesting to note that in Britain 25th of December was a festival long before the conversion to Christianity. Bede relates that "the ancient peoples of the Angli began the year on the 25th of December when we now celebrate the birthday of the Lord; and the very night which is now so holy to us they called in their tongue *mōdra niht*, that is, the mother's night, by reason, we suspect, of the ceremonies which in that night-long vigil they performed." It is also of interest that in 1644 the English puritans forbade any merriment or religious

ceremonies by act of Parliament, on the ground that it was a heathen festival, and ordered it to be kept as a fast. Later, Charles II revived the festive nature of Christmas, but in Scotland the puritan outlook persisted and even to this day New Year's Day is celebrated with greater enthusiasm than Christmas Day.

This is a turbulent time in the history of the world. National enmities are flaring forth. The economic blight is still far from being subdued. Many people in this country are in real want. Leaders and politicians are divided in their counsels. The future of Europe is perilous and insecure. Surely we are badly in need of a little of the Christmas spirit of peace and goodwill, of tolerance and understanding. As the year draws to a close, let us try to overcome and forget the pettiness of our dislikes and hates. Life is short enough, but a spirit of true happiness can make it pleasant and worth while. Let us be patient with the shortcomings of our friends—whether they be individuals or nations—remembering that we too have our shortcomings. The world in general is suffering from distrust and fear. An infusion of Christmas joy and cheer would do much to dissolve its pessimism and gloom. As individuals and nations we are in dire need of peace. When Christmas comes let us not forget that it brings a message of peace and goodwill to men and let us resolve to disseminate and perpetuate that message among our fellow creatures irrespective of race or creed. Let us not despair:

“It's coming yet, for a' that,
That man to man, the world o'er,
Shall brothers be for a' that.”

—(*New Health Magazine*, December, 1935.)

NEWS OF THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

Founder of the Salt Lake Oratorio Society, Squire Coop is guest conductor of this year's presentation of Handel's "Messiah" at the Salt Lake Tabernacle during the holiday season. He comes from Los Angeles, where he is director of the University of California student choir. Professor Albert J. Southwick, director of the oratorio society, is supervising the work of presentation. Orchestral parts have been ordered from London.

Representative of the Relief Society of the Church at the National Council of Women in Waldorf-Astoria hotel in New York City recently was Sister Julia A. Lund, general secretary of the Relief Society. She also attended the Women's Conference of Current Problems which followed. Sister Lund

represented the 70,500 members of the Relief Society at the round-table discussions. The Relief Society is affiliated with the National Council of Women, and has sent delegates to its conventions for more than four decades. Sister Louise Y. Robison, general president of the Relief Society and a director of the National Council, attended the International Council of Women's meetings in Paris in July, 1934.

Stakes of the Church now number 115, following the division of Liberty stake in Salt Lake City, Sunday, October 27. The name of the new stake is Bonneville. Other stakes that have been formed during recent months are New York, Hawaii and Hyland (the latter from Granite stake).

NORWICH DISTRICT CONFERENCE

LOWESTOFT branch chapel was scene of the semi-annual Norwich district conference Sunday, December 8. President Joseph J. Cannon was the principal speaker at the sessions, which began with a morning testimony meeting and included three other meetings during the day. Special musical numbers were provided by the Mission M Men and Harmony Four quartettes. One hundred forty persons attended the evening meeting.

President Cannon's evening remarks were directed to the mission of Joseph Smith. He showed how the world today was recognizing the worth of his teachings. He read tributes from Boy Scout executives of America, extolling Latter-day Saints for their leadership in this field. Other speakers at the evening services, conducted by District President Alfred Burrell, were Elder Alma M. Porter and Sister Elizabeth Cornwall, Mission Primary supervisor. A vocal solo was

contributed by Sister Mildred E. Jennis.

Brother John F. Cook of the district presidency conducted the afternoon meeting, which included talks by Elders Walter Jay Eldredge, J. Sterling Astin, Douglas Anderson and Stanley Heal. Elder Bertram T. Willis was in charge of the M.I.A. programme. Responses were given by Sister Muriel Upson (Bee-Hive), Brother Ronald Coleby (Boy Scout), Sister Lily Belton (Gleaner Girl), Sister Hilda Cook (Y. W. M. I. A. Adult) and Brother Henry Daniels (Y.M.M.I.A. Adult). Brother Albert Cole sang a solo.

Morning speakers were Supervising Elder Rex A. Skidmore, Elders James Gardner, Gordon D. Priestley, Leroy A. Kettle, Joseph Black, Delbert N. Groom and Joseph H. Stout and Brother Alfred Woodhouse. Brother Cook conducted.

A district concert and social was held the preceding evening in Lowestoft conservative rooms.

OF CURRENT INTEREST

Christmas—The entire British Empire will simultaneously receive the Yuletide greetings of His Majesty, King George V, on Christmas Day. He will give a five-minute talk over the facilities of the B.B.C. in a broadcast that will be relayed around the world. "This Great Family" will be the title of the Christmas broadcast, beginning at 2:30 p.m. The King will speak at 2:55 p.m. Five pairs of relays are being arranged for exchanging greetings between places in Britain and places in Canada, South Africa, India, Australia and New Zealand. This important B.B.C. feature is planned by 24-year-old Mr. Felix Felton, who has been recruited from Oxford University Dramatic society.

Bethlehem—The little village which nearly two millenniums ago was the birthplace of the Prince of Peace is a unique but thriving agricultural center today. With a population of approximately 7,000 persons, Bethlehem rests in the

heart of a fertile region of vineyards. Nestled 2,500 feet above sea level on the eastern spur of a watershed, it is also a center of manufacture of religious mementoes. They are made of mother-of-pearl, olive wood and "Dead sea stone." Palestine today is industrially awakening from a lethargy of ages past. It has become an exporting nation. Passing the million mark, its population is swelling with the influx of Jews from all parts of the globe. The Jewish population of Palestine, which dropped from 75,000 to 50,000 during the World war, had increased five-fold from the Armistice to 1934. In a recent article in the *Review of Reviews*, Norman Bentwich wrote: "The number of Jewish villages has risen from 50 to 150, the area of land in Jewish ownership from 100,000 to 250,000." Palestine is now administered by Britain under mandate from League of Nations.

Curtains—The curtains have fallen for the last time for Mr. Charles Hayden Coffin, famous

musical comedy star and friend of Latter-day Saints. The death of the 73-year-old man whose name was known throughout Britain and America for his superb singing and acting was announced at his London home December 9. He first attracted wide acclaim in the eighties with his rendition of the song *Queen of My Heart* in the comedy-opera *Dorothy* during a run of nearly three years at the *Old Gaiety* and *Prince of Wales*

and *Lyric* theatres in London. His voice remained sweet almost until his death. He recently broadcasted several of his old favourites. He was born in Manchester April 22, 1862, the son of an American dentist. He spoke highly of Salt Lake City, which he had visited. Last summer he presented members of the Latter-day Saint baseball team their London championship cups at the White City stadium.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Arrivals—Arriving in London Monday, December 9, new travelling elders have been assigned to the following districts: Elder Karl Franklin Foster (S. t. George, Utah), Birmingham; Elder Norman Alvin Jensen (Brigham City, Utah), Nottingham; Elder Arthur Willard Jorgensen (Hyrum, Utah), Birmingham; Elder Peter Martin Andersen Moyes (Salt Lake City) Manchester; Elder Richard Stewart Tanner (Salt Lake City) Nottingham.

Doings in the Districts: Birmingham

— At ceremonies held in Kidderminster branch chapel Sunday, November 24, Alan Harry Taylor was baptized by Elder Fielding S. Barlow and confirmed by Elder Horace L. Hulme, Winifred Florence Morris was baptized by Elder Ira A. Newsome and confirmed by Elder Bar-

low, and Merrill Gittins was baptized by Elder Newsome and confirmed by Elder Ralph W. Hardy.

Gift Time

CHRISTMAS time is gift time. Throughout the Mission saints are giving to their branch building funds. This season of the year is the most profitable time to swell branch funds, for the Mission M. I. A. building contest is nearing a close (January 15).

Sheffield district recently introduced a novel method of enhancing its branch funds. A musical contest festival was presented in Sheffield branch hall. Departments and judges of contests included: speech, Elder Alva D. Green and Brother James R. Bargh; music, Miss Mary Clark; art and hobbies, Mr. Norman Best; needlework, Mrs. Abbey, and baking, Mr. Harvey Gates. Dr. Ray M. Russell, Mission Y.M.M.I.A. superintendent, was patron and his wife, Sister Inez C. Russell, favoured with vocal solos.

Proceeds of the affair, attended by 120 persons, were divided among building funds of the four branches in the district.

solo, Brother Goodman gave an organ rendition and Brother Raymond Goodman presented a scriptural reading.

Leeds—Bradford branch M Men

Tipton branch conference was held recently at the home of Brother Alfred C. Round, 18 Colbourn road, Tipton. Services were conducted by Branch President Charles Harper and the theme was "The Last Dispensation." Speakers included District President Norman Dunn, his counsellors, Brothers George E. Hunter and William St. John Yates, and President Harper. Brother Alfred C. Round, Brother Ernest A. Goodman and Sister Gladys M. Harper, Sister Evelyn Parrott sang a

have organized a badminton club which is attracting keen interest. Brother Fred Watkins, M Men president is in charge.

Under the direction of Superintendent Fred Watkins, Bradford branch Sunday school sponsored a social and supper Monday evening, December 9. Proceeds went to a fund for providing a Christmas treat for Sunday School children.

London—Twenty-seven persons enjoyed an M.I.A. concert in Portsmouth branch hall Tuesday evening, December 10. A special feature was renditions by the Mission Harmony Four. Some of the selections they sang were *Merry Life, Viva La Muir, Deep River, Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes, Sailing,*

Love's Old Sweet Song and Carry On. Sister Ruth Pearl Tomes contributed piano numbers and a duet was sung by Sisters Bertha and Carita Carter.

Liverpool—Another successful social and dance was held in Wigan branch rooms under the direction of the Community Activity Committee Wednesday, December 11. Brother Frank Brindle was master of ceremonies and Sisters Elsie Rickard and Madeline Ellison catered for refreshments.

Correction—*Fred* Horlacher (not George) is the name of the Latter-day Saint international football star mentioned in the article "Lives That Reflect" in December 12 issue of the *Star*.

CHRISTMAS TIME IN ENGLAND

A GOOD time, and a merry time,
At Christmas Time, in England;
Our hearts are filled with friendliness
And joy rules on the earth:
Let happy children grace the day;
Let Christmas pleasures hold full sway;
Yet, for a moment, pause and pray;
Recall that Holy Birth.

Think of the Star, that wondrous Night,
At Christmas Time, in England;
Recall the choired angels' songs,
The Magis' treasured store:
Lift up your voices, gladly sing;
Lift up your hearts, an offering bring;
Lift up your eyes, behold your King!
Who reigns for evermore.

—JAMES LLOYD WOODRUFF

CONTENTS

Greetings From the First Presidency	802	Two Great December Dates	808
The First Mormon Christmas in England	804	A Deeper Hunger...	810
To Our Friends in Great Britain	805	News of the Church in the World	813
A Yuletide Message	806	Norwich District Conference ...	814
Christmas in the Modern World	807	Of Current Interest	814
Editorials:		From the Mission Field...	815
The Christmas Holidays ...	808	Poetry: Christmas Time in England	816

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